

Focus

Hanford hazardous waste permit modifications

Background

A Hazardous Waste Permit was issued in August 1994 for the Hanford Nuclear Facility by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The permit was granted under provisions of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Washington State Dangerous Waste regulations. It outlined general conditions for the operation and closure of hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal sites, or units, on the Hanford Site.

Currently, more than 50 treatment, storage or disposal (TSD) units at Hanford operate under interim status permit conditions. As these units are added to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit, the general conditions identified in the permit will apply to them. The addition of these units into the permit will change them from interim status to final status permit units. Units undergoing closure will be completed under provisions of unit-specific closure plans included in the permit. A total of eight units undergoing closure and two operating units have been included as individual chapters to the facility permit since September 1994.

Statement of Basis

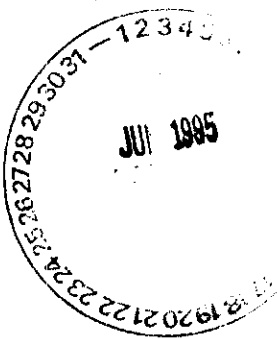
The following descriptions shall serve as a Statement of Basis for these proposed modifications. An extensive Fact Sheet was prepared for the September 1994 Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit, and the proposed modifications will not affect any of the current permit conditions.

August 1995 Modifications to the Site Wide Permit

Three units that will undergo closure are included in the proposed August 1995 modifications to the Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit. The units are:

- **Hanford Patrol Academy Demolition Sites:** The Demolition Sites are located on the Hanford Patrol Academy training area, which lies about a half mile north of Horn Rapids Road which forms Richland's north city boundary. The sites, which were part of the academy's firing range complex, are 3,990 square feet and 79 square feet in size, respectively. They were used between 1975 and 1991 for the detonation of discarded explosive chemical products. The site is proposed to be clean closed. Contaminated soil will be removed if sampling detects contamination levels above human health or environmental standards.
- **105 DR Large Sodium Fire Facility:** The 105 DR Large Sodium Fire Facility (LSFF) operated from 1972 to 1986 in the former ventilation supply room on the southwest side of the 105 DR Reactor building, which lies near the Columbia River about 33 miles northwest of Richland. Experiments were conducted in the LSFF to study the behavior of molten alkali metals and alkali metal fires to prepare for the operation of Hanford's Fast Flux Test Facility liquid sodium-cooled reactor. Experiments included test spills, sodium-concrete reaction tests, lithium fire and reaction testing. The facility was permitted to treat and store up to 5,300 gallons of sodium, lithium and sodium-potassium metal wastes each year. Under the closure strategy, the facility is to be partially clean closed. The building and structures will either be removed or decontaminated so they do not represent a threat to human health or the environment.
- **304 Concretion Facility:** Located in the northwest portion of the 300 Area about five miles north of Richland, the facility consists of a container storage pad and a

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concrete mixer that treated radioactive mixed wastes generated during fuel fabrication in the 313 and 333 buildings between 1972 and 1986. The 304 Concretion Facility mixed masonry cement with metals such as uranium and beryllium-zircaloy-2 alloy. About 20,000 pounds of dangerous waste annually were concreted into barrels in the facility. Under the clean closure strategy, all known or suspected contamination in the building and its components will be removed or treated.

How you can be involved

A 45-day public comment period will start **June 8, 1995**, and conclude **July 19**. A public hearing on the three unit closures will be conducted **June 21** in Kennewick. A response to comments will be mailed by August 15, 1995. If no major changes are required, a new modified Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit will be issued by August 15, 1995. The permit modifications will take effect September 15, 1995.

Public hearing

Kennewick

Wednesday, June 21
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology
1315 W. 4th Avenue

The Hanford Hazardous Waste Permit and the proposed August 1995 modifications are available for review at these Hanford Public Information Repositories:

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
E. 502 Boone
(509) 328-4220 ext. 3125

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Room
(206) 543-4664

Richland

Washington State University, Tri-Cities
U.S. Dept. of Energy Reading Room, Rm 130
100 Sprout Road
(509) 376-8583

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
Science and Engineer Floor
SW Harrison and Park
(503) 725-3690

All information in the repositories, plus the administrative record, including all data submitted by the applicants, may be reviewed by appointment at the following administrative record locations:

Seattle

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Hazardous Waste Division
1200 Sixth Avenue
Diane Richardson (206) 553-1253
Mon-Fri., 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Lacey

Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
300 Desmond Drive
Marilyn Smith (360) 407-7097
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-noon, 1-4 p.m.

Richland

Westinghouse Hanford Company
740 Stevens Center, Suite 101
Debbi Isom (509) 376-2530
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (no appointment necessary)

Submit written comments by July 19 to:

Moses Jaraysi
Washington State Department of Ecology
Nuclear Waste Program
1315 W. 4th Avenue
Kennewick WA 99336-6018

For more information, contact Moses Jaraysi, Ecology, (509) 736-3016; Clifford Clark, USDOE (509) 376-9333; or Hanford Cleanup toll-free 1-800-321-2008.

If you have special accommodation needs, or would like this material in an alternate format (large print, Braille, cassette tape, or on computer), please contact Michelle Davis, Ecology (360) 407-7126, or (360) 407-6206 (TDD).